

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends claims 1 and 15, and cancels claims 14 and 16. Now pending in the application are claims 1-13, 15 and 17, of which claims 1 and 17 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Patentable Subject Matter and Claim Amendments

Claim 17 is allowed. Claims 3 and 6-15 are indicated to recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 14. Claim 14 is subsequently canceled. Claim 15 is amended to depend from claim 1. No new matter is added.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,381,819 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,086,548. In the foregoing amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claim 14. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and add separate and patentable limitations to claim 1. Claim 16 is canceled. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the rejection claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 is moot. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and pass the claims to allowance.

Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,381,819 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,086,548, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,841,173. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and adds separate and patentable limitations to claim 1. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the rejection claim 2 is moot.

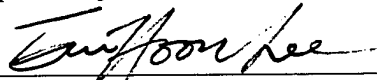
Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and pass the claim to allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
EuiHoon Lee

Registration No.: L0248
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant